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US Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Re: **Docket #A2011-15**; Request for Reconsideration; Appeal of Decision
to Close Gwynedd Station/Post Office (19436) on May 27, 2011

Dear Commission Members:

The purpose of this letter is to support the Appeal / Request for Reconsideration (the “Appeal”) of the decision, reached by the USPS, to close the Gwynedd Station (Post Office (19436)), located at 1200 Meetinghouse Road, in Lower Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County, PA (the “Gwynedd Station”). Reference is made to **Docket #A2011-15**. As an elected Committeeman, representing the ~1,700 voters of Lower Gwynedd Voting District 1-1 (“VD 1-1”), which includes the ~500 resident Foulkeways retirement community; as a volunteer on enumerable community projects; as someone who has worked in the community for more than 34 years; and as a resident of Lower Gwynedd Township (and user of the Gwynedd Station) since 1986, I believe that I have a unique perspective on why the Gwynedd Station should remain in operation, and what its closure will mean to the residents of VD 1-1.

By way of background, by letter dated April 4, the USPS informed us that the Gwynedd Station will be “officially closed” on May 27, 2011 – exactly one week from today. Thereafter, according to the April 4th letter, PO Box services will be provided through the Springhouse Classified USPS Branch (the “SH Branch”). That letter followed-up on a letter we received from the USPS, dated February 15, 2011, informing us of the proposed closure of the Gwynedd Station; and a public meeting with regard thereto, held on March 3, 2011, hosted by USPS representatives and attended by ~100 residents of LG 1-1.

In considering the Appeal, the USPRC is urged to consider the following, among other, reasons:

1. **Ingress and egress, and parking**, at the SH Branch has not been sufficiently studied, considered and/or provided for by the USPS. Because there is already insufficient parking at the SH Branch (located in a small strip shopping center); and because of the present hazard encountered by cars, leaving the SH Branch’s parking lot, attempting to make a left turn onto Bethlehem Pike, an already heavily traveled 4-lane roadway, before closing the Gwynedd Station, the USPS needs to study, consider and remedy the impact of another 20, 30, 40 or more cars per day using the SH Branch. At the March 3rd meeting, the USPS representatives said that, in fact, this had not been done.

¹ Please note that our PO Box Address, at the Gwynedd Station/Post Office (19436), is as follows: PO Box 444, Gwynedd, PA 19436-0444. Because of our concern about the USPS’s appeal process, and out of an abundance of caution, we have already opened another PO Box at the Gwynedd Valley/Station Post Office (19437) as noted above.

2. That many of the 20, 30, 40 or more additional cars per day using the SH Branch will be driven by senior citizens, many of whom have somewhat diminished reflexes and vision, further increases the danger to them, as well as other citizens of (and other drivers on the roadways of) Lower Gwynedd Township, in forcing those senior citizens to use the SH Branch (and make right turns into, and left turns out of the parking lot), rather than permitting those senior citizens to continue using the “off the road” Gwynedd Station current (and proposed) location, further **exacerbates the problems** presented by the Gwynedd Station to SH Branch relocation.

3. The **parking facilities at the SH Branch are already inadequate, insufficient and in disrepair** – and therefore ill-prepared for the current level of use of the small strip shopping center within which is located the SH Station, in addition to the increased traffic to be added thereto by an additional 20, 30, 40 or more additional cars per day using the SH Branch. No doubt, therefore, the increased traffic in the portion of the parking lot along Bethlehem Pike will lead to more fender-bender accidents, an increased likelihood of pedestrian accidents, and ingress and egress type accidents. Users of the parking lot in the rear of the strip shopping center (primarily reserved for employees working at the center) will have to walk a considerable distance to get to post office boxes; over broken, cracked and uneven surfaces, thereby leading to slips, falls and other injuries. Those anticipated injuries to our senior citizens are no doubt more likely, serious; and, thus, more deserving of the study, consideration and remediation that the USPS representatives at the March 3rd meeting said had not been done.

4. Particularly during the morning and afternoon rush hours, the traffic along Bethlehem Pike, being increased by the 20, 30, 40 or more additional cars per day using the SH Branch, will add to the **traffic gridlock and considerable hazards** already presented by cars rushing to get to work, and to get home, especially those using Route 309, which has on-ramps and off-ramps nearby; and whom are all, at workday’s end, are funneled into a 5- way intersection at Bethlehem Pike, Norristown Road, and Dager Road..

5. Lower Gwynedd Township is one of the oldest townships in Montgomery County, PA, having been settled in the late 1600s. The Township is comprised of 4 “villages”: Gwynedd, Gwynedd Valley, Penllyn, and Spring House. By the USPS taking away the Gwynedd Station, the USPS **destroys one of the 4 historic villages of the Township**. The Gwynedd Station, one of the first 35 post offices in PA, has been in existence since 1810; and at its current location, for 56 years.

6. **The Gwynedd Station is not losing money.** In fact, it’s been documented that, contrary to what was said by the USPS representatives at the March 3rd meeting, the Gwynedd Station turns a small profit, with box rentals more than covering the lease rental for the Gwynedd Station. Whereas in past years the USPS’s personnel serving the Gwynedd Station were not always friendly and responsive, the current staffing is terrific, and sure to generate more and more business as services increase.

For the foregoing reasons, the USPRC is urged to keep the Gwynedd Station open and operating.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Wanger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W".

WILLIAM R. WANGER